



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, August 09, 2010

Electricity

Update: After August 5 Storms, Utilities Report Only Scattered Outages along U.S. East Coast August 9

Thunderstorms and heavy winds cut power to 144,642 Dominion Virginia Power customers in Virginia, about 72,000 Pepco customers in Washington D.C. and Maryland, and 23,336 Duke Energy customers in North and South Carolina on August 5, news and company sources reported. Some 241 Dominion Virginia Power customers, 860 Pepco customers, and 337 Duke Energy customers were without power, as of latest reports.

Dominion Virginia Power: <http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=912> , <http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp> , <http://www.wtvr.com/news/dp-va--heatwave-virginia0805aug05.0.7519488.story>

Pepco: <http://www.pepco.com/welcome/news/releases/archives/2010/article.aspx?cid=1500> , <http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/> , <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=106625&catid=188>

Duke Energy: <http://www.duke-energy.com/outages/stats/> , <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/08/06/1605145/storms-bring-fierce-winds-needed.html>

Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Shut August 7

Duke Energy shut the unit on August 7 "due to indicated vibrations on 1A1 and 1A2 reactor coolant pumps (RCP) reaching the high vibration trip criteria," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of August 7 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100809en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida Ramped Up to 95 Percent by August 9

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 8 the unit was operating at 48 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana at Full Power by August 9

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 8 the unit was operating at 85 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan at Full Power by August 7

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 6 the unit was operating at 87 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by August 7

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 6 the unit was operating at 80 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by August 8

PPL shut the plant on July 16 after “river water entered the turbine building basement from hatches that provide access to part of the unit’s condenser” it said in a previous release. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 7 the unit was operating at 89 percent.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Unit+1+at+Susquehanna+nuclear+plant+returns+to+service+080410.htm>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by August 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008071515.html>

CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by August 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 431 MW by August 7.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008071515.html>

Update: Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Energy Center Gas-Fired Unit in California Ramps Up by August 6

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 315 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008061515.html>

Dominion Reports Unusual Event at 1,842 MW North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia August 5

A valve failure led to a “75 gpm letdown flow being diverted to the gas stripper” on August 5 at Dominion’s 1,842 MW North Anna nuclear power plant in Virginia, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). “The normal letdown flowpath was isolated... and the leakage isolated,” Dominion said, but “the identified flow rate exceeded the threshold for entry into a Notice of Unusual Event.”

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100806en.html>

Update: NRC Accepts PSEG Power and PSEG Nuclear’s Early Site Permit Application for Possible Nuclear Power Plant near Salem, New Jersey by August 6

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) accepted for review PSEG Power and PSEG Nuclear’s Early Site Permit (ESP) application for a possible nuclear power plant near Salem, New Jersey, the agency said on August 6. The companies filed the application on May 25, according to the NRC. PSEG said previously that it had not yet decided whether to construct a new facility. Should it proceed, however, it said it would prefer to build the plant next to its existing Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power facilities in Salem County, New Jersey.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-136.html>

http://www.pseg.com/media_center/pressreleases/articles/2010/2010-05-25.jsp

Large-Scale, Non-Disaster-Related Outages on the Rise across United States: University of Minnesota Study

The number of non-disaster-related, large-scale power failures – those impacting 50,000 customers or more – has surged by 124 percent over the past 20 years in the United States, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota. There were 41 such outages between 1991 and 1995, and 92 between 2001 and 2005, the researchers say.

http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/innovation/08/09/smart.grid/index.html?eref=rss_us

Cleco Corp Aims to Install 277,000 Smart Meters in Louisiana Over Two-Plus Years

Cleco Corp aims to install smart meters for all of its 277,000 customers in Louisiana, the company’s President and Chief Executive said by August 9. Pending state approval, Cleco plans to complete the deployments in the first quarter of 2013.

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20100809/BUSINESS/100809011>

Update: Segment Removed along Enbridge's Ruptured 190,000 b/d, 30-Inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B

An approximately 50-foot section of pipe was removed from Enbridge's 190,000 b/d, 30-inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead system Line 6B on August 6, about 11 days after the line spilled an estimated 19,500 barrels (the Environmental Protection Agency suspected that total could exceed 23,800 barrels) of oil into a creek near the company's Marshall, Michigan pump station. The leak originated from a rupture less than five feet long, a company official said on August 7. The removed segment – which Enbridge described as “where the leak originated” – was transported to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) lab in Virginia on August 7. Enbridge expected workers to begin inserting replacement pipe on August 8, but said on August 7 that it still not know when the line would resume service. The line remained shut on August 9. Enbridge said it was examining, inch-by-inch, about 50 feet of pipe on either side of the removed segment. Cleanup efforts continued along the Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River, as of latest reports.

<http://response.enbridgeus.com/response/main.aspx?id=12922>

<http://response.enbridgeus.com/response/main.aspx?id=12919>

Reuters, 16:33 August 7, 2010

Update: BP Expects to Intercept Blown-Out Well in Gulf of Mexico on August 15

BP drilled its relief well in the Gulf of Mexico to a depth of 17,909 feet by the morning of August 9, and estimated that – weather permitting – it would intercept the blown-out MC252 well annulus on August 15. A tropical weather system was expected to pass near the well site in a few days, according to retired Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, the federal official in charge of the spill response. There was a small chance that the system could strengthen into a tropical depression, based on latest forecasts. BP, meanwhile, said that pressure tests indicated that its recently-completed cementing procedure had been a success. The effort, completed on August 5, led to “an effective cement plug in the casing,” according to BP.

<http://www.bp.com/extendedsectiongenericarticle.do?categoryId=9034427&contentId=7063885>

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7064292>

<http://app.restorethegulf.gov/go/doc/2931/852391/>

Reuters, 11:29 August 9, 2010

Update: After Federal Court Ruling, Alaska Governor Says Shell Can Proceed with Seismic Testing in Chukchi Sea

Shell could proceed with seismic testing for oil and gas in the Chukchi Sea, offshore Alaska, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell said on August 6, after a federal court clarified that its injunction against oil and gas activities related to a 2008 lease sale was not intended to block seismic testing or other permitted activities. The court's injunction also did not apply to work proposed by Statoil USA E&P Inc., Parnell said. Statoil planned to carry out seismic testing over the summer, according to Parnell.

<http://gov.state.ak.us/parnell/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=5467>

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=97089

Valve Snag Leads to SO2 Release at Marathon's 204,000 b/d Robinson, Illinois Refinery July 7 – August 3

A valve failed to reseal at Marathon's 204,000 b/d Robinson, Illinois refinery, leading to the release of 216,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO2) over a 24-30 day period in July and August, 2010, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident began on July 7 and ended on August 3, according to the filing. The valve-in-question was closed, the filing said.

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2010-0837>

Thunderstorm Leads to Emissions at Lion Oil's 75,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas Refinery August 7

Reuters, 08:16 August 9, 2010

Update: TransCanada Ramps Up Recently-Completed, 435,000 b/d, Alberta-to-Illinois Keystone Oil Pipeline to 50 Percent Capacity by August 6

Reuters, 17:26 August 6, 2010

Suicide Speedboat to Blame for July 29 Explosion on Japanese Oil Tanker in Strait of Hormuz: UAE Coast Guard

A suicide speedboat crashed into the Japanese M. Star oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on July 29, the UAE Coast Guard said by August 9. The Brigades of Abdullah Azzam, a militant jihadist group, had previously taken credit for the explosion, according to the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group. Sources, however, had questioned the claim, and it remained unclear if the group was indeed responsible for the blast.

http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2010/me_gulf0760_08_09.asp

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/unitedarabemirates/7929823/Japanese-oil-tanker-was-hit-by-terrorist-attack-in-the-Gulf-of-Hormuz.html>

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100805/NATIONAL/708049837>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j-OITSSOTP5QGnoHpHpQTkmbwwbw>

<https://www.siteintelgroup.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

Natural Gas

Laser Northeast Plans 400 MMcf/d, 16-Inch, 30-Mile, Pennsylvania-to-New York Natural Gas Pipeline

Laser Northeast Gathering Company, LLC plans to construct a 400 MMcf/d, 16-inch, 30-mile natural gas pipeline from Susquehanna Pennsylvania through Broome County, New York. The line would serve producers in the Marcellus Shale formation. It would connect to the 525,400 Dth/d, 30-inch, 182-mile Millennium natural gas pipeline in New York.

<http://www.lasernortheast.com/projects.html>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=23648

<http://www.millenniumpipeline.com/defaultc.aspx>

Dominion Plans 150,000 Dth/d, Pennsylvania-to-New York Natural Gas Pipeline Project

Dominion plans to deliver 150,000 Dth/d of Marcellus shale natural gas from Tennessee Gas Pipeline's (TGP) 300 Line pipeline system in northern Pennsylvania to TGP's 200 Line pipeline system in upstate New York, Dominion said on August 9. Pending approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Dominion plans to break ground on the Ellisburg-to-Craigs project in March 2012 and begin service on November 1, 2012. The work would include additional compression facilities, a new measurement and regulating station in New York, and regulating facilities along Dominion's system in northern Pennsylvania.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=913>

Other News

Car Crashes into Natural Gas Pipeline, Leading to Evacuation and Shutdown of Hawkeye Renewables' 115 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant in Fairbank, Iowa August 6

A car crashed into a Northern Natural Gas-owned pipeline in Fairbank, Iowa on August 6, killing the driver and his passenger and causing a small leak that forced offline natural gas deliveries to Hawkeye Renewables' nearby 115 MMGal/Yr. ethanol plant, company and news sources said. Hawkeye Renewables halted production and evacuated the facility, according to a local fire official. Northern Natural Gas said it had resumed natural gas shipments to the plant at 5 PM on August 7, but it was not clear if Hawkeye Renewables had resumed production, as of latest reports.

http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/article_458d5c9c-a16b-11df-8394-001cc4c03286.html

<http://www.hawkrenew.com/aspx/fairbank.aspx>

Coal-Carrying Train Cars Derail near Quantico, Virginia August 5, Disrupting Amtrak Service along Affected Rail

Five coal-carrying train cars derailed south of Quantico, Virginia on August 5, disrupting Amtrak train service on August 6 and August 7.

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2010/08/07/amtrak_rails_reopen_after_coal_train_accident/

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices August 9, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	81.45	81.28	71.48
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.67	4.81	3.78

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Transformer Failure Knocks Out Power to about 19,000 NV Energy Customers in Nevada August 8 – Company Restores Power to all Customers in Less than Two Hours

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100808/NEWS/100808014/-1/CARSON/4-50-p-m-update-Power-restored-to-all-19-000-affected-in-Sparks-Spanish-Springs-and-Sun-Valley>

Storms Knock Out Power to 11,000 We Energies Customers and about 7,500 Wisconsin Public Service Customers in Wisconsin August 8-9

<http://gazettextra.com/weblogs/latest-news/2010/aug/09/thousands-wisconsin-without-power-due-storms/>
<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20100809/WDH0101/8090414/Sunday-morning-storm-drenches-region>

Storm Knocks Out Power to 11,200 Alabama Power Customers in Alabama August 6

<http://www.cbs42.com/content/localnews/story/AL-Power-About-1800-Outages-in-Jefferson-and-xkbjCUkGnEuU8H0MQcxayg.csp>

Thunderstorms Cut Electricity to Nearly 20,000 MidAmerican Energy Customers in Iowa August 9

<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/OutageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>
http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/2010-08-09-iowa-storms_N.htm

California Energy Commission Siting Committee Recommends Approval of Abengoa's Planned 250 MW Mojave Solar Power Project in San Bernardino County, California August 6

http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2010_releases/2010-08-06_Abengoa_PMPD.html

Amid Extreme Heat, PPL Electric Delivers 3,812,274 MWh of Electricity in Pennsylvania during July 2010, Breaking its Summer-Months Record for Electric Demand

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/PPL+Electric+Utilities+sets+new+monthly+summer+power+use+mark+in+July+080610.htm>
http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/28/2010/august/08/electric-companies-july-usage-broke-records.html

High Temperatures to Blame as PECO Energy Customers Consume 8,094 MWh of Electricity during Late Afternoon, July 24, Setting New Record for Weekend Peak Demand

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/28/2010/august/08/electric-companies-july-usage-broke-records.html

Unspecified Quantity of Diesel Oil Spills into Harbor Offshore California August 8 – Sheen Covered 300 by 200 Yard Section of Water

<http://www.keyt.com/news/local/Coast-Guard-Cleans-Up-Oil-Sheen-100235499.html>

Update: Newfield Exploration Company Completes Pipeline Repairs, Restarts Oil Production at 20,000-Plus East Belumut Oil Field Offshore Malaysia by August 9 – Field Was Offline for Four Weeks

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=63798&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1458030&highlight=>

Russia Delays Planned Maintenance along Oil Pipeline to Primorsk Port, Citing Concerns over Forest Fires – Company to Increase Oil Deliveries from Primorsk Port

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6781QD20100809>

Reuters, 10:34 August 9, 2010

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Completes "Emergent Repair Work" at Station 703A along Natural Gas Pipeline through Tennessee

<http://tebb.epenergy.com/ebb/notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=TGP&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=132942>

Power Outage Forces Shut SRU at Indian Rock Gas Plant in Texas August 6 – Operators Restart Unit within Six Hours

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143279>

Discharge Line Repairs Lead to Flaring at Weir Booster Station in Texas August 6

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143274>

Engines Shut and Restart after “Interstage Scrubber Filled up with Liquid” at Riley Booster Station in Texas August 7-8

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143282>

Cylinder Shutdown Leads to Flaring at West Credo Booster Station in Texas August 8

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143283>

Appeals Court Overturns City Ordinance that Had Restricted Ethanol Movement from Norfolk Southern’s Ethanol Transloading Facility in Alexandria, Virginia

<http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/hazmat-and-chemicals/hazardous-materials-transportation/City-Cant-Restrict-Ethanol-Transport/>

Strike Forces Offline Teck Resources Ltd’s 2.7 Million Tonnes/Year Coal Mountain Mine in British Columbia, Canada by August 7

Reuters, 18:09 August 7, 2010

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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